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# CHRONOLOGY OF INTERNATIONAL EVENTS AND DOCUMENTS

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**THE WORLD TODAY**

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AFGHANISTAN. 6 May—Sardar Faiz Muhammad Khan was appointed Ambassador to Great Britain.

ANTARCTICA. 23 Apr.—Scientific expedition (*see Norway*).

ARAB LEAGUE. 25 Apr.—*Palestine*. Military consultations (*see Transjordan and Iraq*).

30 Apr.—*Palestine*. Secretary-general at conference (*see Lebanon*).

ARGENTINA. 1 May—President Perón, in a Message to Congress, said that the consecutive re-election of a President was extremely dangerous, as it substituted one man for a country's flag. After a six-year term Argentina needed a man with new ideas and fresh energy. He reaffirmed the Argentine claim to the 'ownership' of the Falkland Islands and Antarctica, but said that Argentina maintained a close friendship with all countries. He defended the Argentine agricultural policy, and declared that if foreign countries, by consumers' agreements or by force, fixed low prices for wheat, Argentina would grow less wheat and cultivate more remunerative products to the detriment of countries needing bread.

AUSTRALIA. 30 Apr.—*Palestine*. The Minister of Immigration, Mr Calwell, stated in Canberra that the Federal Government would refuse passports to Australians seeking to go to Palestine to join the Jews or Arabs.

Those who obtained passports by subterfuge would lose Australian rights.

AUSTRIA. 26 Apr.—A British officer was shot dead by a Yugoslav guard on the Yugoslav frontier.

30 Apr.—*Allied Council*. Gen. Kurassov proposed to discuss amendments to the existing interim agreement for air traffic over the Soviet zone, on the grounds of greater air safety. He was opposed by the other three delegates.

2 May—British and Yugoslav officers, who had conducted an inquiry into the death of a British officer on 26 April, issued a joint statement saying that the officer and his wife and friend had crossed the frontier to get a better view of the scenery from a hill and had been arrested. After they had been taken a short distance there was a struggle between the officer and a Yugoslav guard during which another guard came to the help of his comrade and shot and killed the officer.

5 May—The security police arrested 300 former members of the S.S. and Gestapo, who had organized an underground Nazi movement at Braunau, the birthplace of Hitler.

BELGIUM. 5 May—*Resignation of Government*. The majority of the Socialist group in the Chamber opposed a proposal, which was supported by the Government, to increase the State subsidy to Catholic technical schools, and the Government resigned.

BERMUDA. 4 May.—The House of Assembly approved all the recommendations contained in the joint committee's report (Cmd. 7093) on political, social, and economic conditions in the colony (*see III, p. 218*).

BULGARIA. 23 Apr.—Treaty (*see Czechoslovakia*).

BURMA. 27 Apr.—The Supreme Court rejected the applications of U Saw and four others for special leave to appeal against the appellate judgment of the High Court confirming their convictions and sentences of death for the murder of Aung San and other Ministers.

CANADA. 23 Apr.—*Immigration*. The acting Minister of Mines and Resources, Mr Mackinnon, announced that arrangements had been made with Trans-Canada Airlines whereby 10,000 British immigrants could be flown to Canada before the end of the present fiscal year. Immigration staffs in Britain were being expanded to deal with the expected traffic.

29 Apr.—*Review of Foreign Affairs*. The Minister for External Affairs, Mr St Laurent, in a speech in the House of Commons, made the following points:

*Communism*. There was no escape for Canada, either in isolation or indifference, from what was happening on the world stage. Recent events had emphasized the increasing threat to their democratic national existence of the rising tide of Communism. Canada's boundaries against such a threat extended beyond its physical frontiers and there could be no neutrality in a conflict between freedom and a reactionary dictatorship—a conflict which was as spiritual as it was political. It was not enough, however, to blame the troubles of Europe and the world on the destruction of war and the subversive activity of Communism. To save democracy in Europe and elsewhere they must demonstrate by deeds that democracy was a more dynamic and humanitarian creed than Communism. No régime in Europe had the right to assistance merely because it proclaimed itself to be a barrier against Communism. It must do more, and show that it could act promptly and resolutely to disperse, by productive measures, the accumulated forces of social discontent which Communism so cunningly exploited wherever they existed.

*British Commonwealth*. It was always assumed, and with good reason, that the relations between the Commonwealth members were characterized by mutual confidence, understanding, and good will. But the Commonwealth relationship was never static. World dangers and uncertainties had compelled Canada to assume greater responsibilities as a north American nation. For the same reasons, Britain had boldly assumed the leadership in reorganizing the security and increasing the economic stability of western Europe, while Australia and New Zealand were greatly concerned about security in the south-western Pacific. Yet, the assumption of special regional responsibilities had not weakened their general close association as members of the Commonwealth. "The greatest strength of the Commonwealth bond is the adherence of

its members to its common ideals, their common political heritage which assures mutual understanding without the necessity of formal instruments of association, and their common interest in promoting and defending the democratic way of life. These ties persist in spite of all the changes in the world situation.'

*U.S.A.* In a tense and dangerous world mutual friendship and solidarity provided a strong foundation for the joint existence of Canada and the U.S.A., and for their relations with each other. On big issues they thought and acted alike because they pursued the same ideals. Strategically, both recognized their independence, and their joint defence measures were based on facts. 'National defence alone is not enough in this day of new weapons and new methods of warfare, collective defence is more than ever necessary.' Canada's co-operative defence arrangements with the U.S.A. were not inconsistent with collective defence within the terms of the United Nations Charter. Between Canada and the U.S.A. such measures were normally necessary. They infringed no rights inside or outside Canada and there was no threat to Canadian control of their own affairs in collaboration with the U.S.A. on joint defence.

*European Recovery Programme.* The development of a sound system of international trade was a matter of first importance for Canada, and it was inseparably linked with European recovery. Canada welcomed any development towards European economic unity, as the economic collapse of western Europe would provide another favourable environment for Communism.

*United Nations.* It was not necessary to contemplate the break-up of the United Nations, or the secession from it of the Soviet group, in order to build up a stronger security system within the organization. 'Without sacrificing the universality of the United Nations it is possible for the free nations of the world to form their own closer association for collective defence under Article 51 of the Charter. Such an association could be created within the United Nations by those free States which are willing to accept more specific and onerous obligations than those contained in the Charter, in return for greater national security than the United Nations can now give its members. It may be that the free States, or some of them, will soon find it necessary to consult together on how best to establish such a collective security league. It might grow out of the plans for western union now maturing in Europe. Its purpose, like that of the western union, would not be merely negative; it would create a dynamic counter-attraction to Communism—the dynamic counter-attraction of a free, prosperous, and progressive society as opposed to the totalitarian and reactionary society of a Communist world.'

30 Apr.—*Arctic Defence.* It was learned that two new weather stations in the Arctic Archipelago were to be established, under the Canadian-U.S. weather-station programme, on Prince Patrick Island and Ellef Ringnes Island respectively.

CEYLON. 30 Apr.—Ministers' London talks (*see Great Britain*).

CHINA. 23 *Apr.*—*Vice-Presidency*. In the first ballot for the Vice-Presidency in the National Assembly, General Li Tsung-jen was first with a lead of 200 votes, Dr Sun Fo second, and General Cheng Chien third.

24 *Apr.*—*Vice-Presidency*. In the second ballot the order was the same.

25 *Apr.*—*Vice-Presidency*. Before the third ballot it was announced that Generals Li Tsung-jen and Cheng Chien had withdrawn their candidatures. There was uproar among the delegates, many of whom refused to accept the withdrawal and claimed that it had been personally engineered by General Chiang Kai-shek in order to secure the election of Dr Sun Fo.

28 *Apr.*—Reports stated that the Communists had occupied Weishien, an important rail centre in eastern Shantung.

29 *Apr.*—*Vice-Presidency*. In the fifth ballot Gen. Li Tsung-jen was elected Vice-President. He received 1,438 votes, and Dr Sun Fo 1,295.

COLOMBIA. 30 *Apr.*—The Secretary of the Communist Party, Sr Gilberto Viera, and eleven other Communists, who had been under arrest since 12 April, were released unconditionally after a court hearing. The presiding judge said he could find no proof that they took part in the riot.

4 *May*—*U.S.S.R.* The Government broke off diplomatic relations with the U.S.S.R.

CONFERENCE ON GERMANY (LONDON). 6 *May*.—It was learned that the conference had decided that a Constituent Assembly for Western Germany should be established on 1 September.

COSTA RICA. 24 *Apr.*—The revolutionary army led by Sr José Figueres peacefully occupied San José and took over all barracks and military installations in the city. The provisional President, Sr Herrera, appointed a new Cabinet with Sr Figueres as acting Foreign Minister, Minister of Justice, and Minister of Home Security.

COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS. 28 *Apr.*—*Austrian Treaty*. The deputy Foreign Minister of Yugoslavia, Mr Bebler, outlining the Yugoslav claims on Austria, said the reparations claim was unchanged, but Yugoslavia had reduced its territorial claim and was no longer claiming the eastern and western ends of Carinthia or the easternmost (Soboth) of the areas they asked for in Styria.

29 *Apr.*—*Austrian Treaty*. Mr Bebler and Dr Gruber, Austrian Foreign Minister, answered questions put by Mr Koktomov.

3 *May*—*Austrian Treaty*. Referring to Yugoslav claims, Mr Marjoribanks and Mr Reber said that they adhered to the decision at Potsdam that Austria should pay no reparations. Mr Reber said that the ethnic, cultural, geographic, and economic arguments put forward by Yugoslavia in support of its claim for territorial changes were not valid.

Mr Koktomov supported the Yugoslav claims but added that 'the Soviet delegation would be ready in the interest of a quick settlement to

consider any solution that takes into account the well-founded Yugoslav claims'.

6 May—*Austrian Treaty*. Mr Reber said that no further progress could be made on the treaty until two matters of principle had been accepted; first, that Austrian frontiers should remain as they were in 1938; and, secondly, that Austria should pay no reparations. Mr Marjoribanks asked whether the U.S.S.R. considered some alteration of frontiers in Yugoslavia's favour to be necessary to a settlement. Could not Yugoslav interests be satisfied without some change of frontier? Mr Koktomov said that they could not. Mr Reber said that he was not prepared to bargain about Austrian frontiers. M. Berthelot (France) said that the 1938 frontiers should be maintained, Mr Marjoribanks said he hoped the Soviet attitude could be reconsidered and declared: 'I consider it to be most important and I now feel it necessary to ask my Government if there is any use in continuing our discussions.' He then proposed an adjournment.

CUBA. 6 May—The Government seized a Communist radio station, stating that it had been broadcasting messages in code.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA. 23 Apr.—*Treaty with Bulgaria*. A treaty of alliance, friendship, and mutual assistance with Bulgaria was signed in Prague by Mr Gottwald and Mr Dimitrov. The signatories undertook to come to each other's assistance by all means at hand in case one of them 'is involved in military action with Germany or with any other state that should directly or in any other manner join with Germany in an aggressive policy'.

*Child Conscription*. It was stated officially that 749 Greek children had arrived in the country. Most of them were 'in a very weak condition' since they had been travelling for over a month. They had 'either fled across the Greek frontier or were transferred in order that they might be saved from Fascist persecution and bombing by monarchist aircraft'.

28 Apr.—*Nationalization*. The Constituent Assembly approved six Bills providing for the intensified nationalization of industry, including those concerns employing over fifty persons, all wholesale and foreign trade, all building activities, distilleries, breweries, bakeries, malt-houses, dairies, and factories for the production of edible fats. It was estimated that in consequence of these measures only 8 per cent of the total volume of industry and trade remained under private control.

29 Apr.—The State Court at Bratislava sentenced Jan Ursiny, former deputy Prime Minister and a member of the Slovak Democratic Party, to seven years' imprisonment, his secretary, Otto Obuch, to thirty years' imprisonment, and sixteen others to terms ranging from eighteen years to four months for conspiracy against the State.

30 Apr.—Mr Bohumil Lausman, Social Democrat Deputy Prime Minister, resigned. He announced that he did not wish to be returned as a Deputy to the next Parliament.

EGYPT. 25 Apr.—A car which had been towed to the villa of Nahhas



Pasha, leader of the Wafd, blew up, wrecking the villa and damaging neighbouring houses. Nahhas Pasha escaped injury.

*Palestine.* Crowds demonstrated outside the offices of the Arab League demanding that military forces be sent to Palestine immediately.

30 Apr.—*Palestine.* The Minister of Communications, Desuky Abaza Pasha, told the press that the U.S.A. 'has begun to exercise some pressure on the Arab Governments and disapproves their determination to resort to armed intervention in Palestine'. He said that the defence of Palestine meant the defence of the very existence of the Arab states.

EIRE. 4 May—*Budget.* The Minister of Finance, Mr McGilligan, introducing the Budget to the Dail, proposed cutting the total estimated expenditure of £77,329,000 by £6,646,000. Among other changes was the provision for increases in old age, widows', and orphans' pensions. He appealed to workers not to seek higher wages in present circumstances and gave a warning that excessive profits were still being taken in spite of price control efforts. If inflationary forces were to be prevented from getting out of hand, there might be no alternative but to restore the machinery of control, which this time would mean the appropriation of the whole of any excess profits.

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION. 23 Apr.—The first meeting of the Executive Committee of the Organization (see p. 259)—Britain (Chairman), France, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey—was held in Paris.

FINLAND. 26 Apr.—The police in Helsinki were ordered by the President to assume a state of alert and the leave of troops was cancelled. Two gunboats were moved into the harbour, and strong guards were put on munition dumps. It was understood that the authorities were acting on information received about Communist plans in connection with the ratification of the treaty with the U.S.S.R.

27 Apr.—The Minister of the Interior, Hr Leino (Communist), in a broadcast, denied rumours that the extreme left was planning action against the existing system of government.

The Communist Party announced that it would demand an investigation into rumours that it had planned the seizure of munitions depots.

28 Apr.—*Treaty with U.S.S.R.* The treaty was ratified by 157 votes to 11.

FRANCE. 29 Apr.—*Socialist Congress.* The Congress, which had been meeting in Paris, passed a resolution giving a 'categorical refusal' to the suggestions for a *rapprochement* between Gen. de Gaulle and the Third Force.

2 May—Trade agreement (see *Spain*).

4 May—*Danube.* Note suggesting a conference (see *U.S.S.R.*).

GERMANY. 23 Apr.—*Berlin. Kommandatura.* Major-General Kotikov (U.S.S.R.) demanded that a four-Power Commission should inquire

into the execution in the western sectors of various regulations passed by the *Kommandatura* for the improvement of the material conditions of the workers. The three other members agreed to consider the proposal. Gen. Kotikov said the U.S. sector of Berlin was a 'shelter for bandits, and a nest of spies and diversionist circles directed against the Soviet zone of Germany'. Colonel Howley (U.S.A.) produced a list of fifty Germans who he said had been abducted from the U.S. sector on Soviet orders.

It was learned that on 21 April the Soviet authorities had confiscated constructional equipment belonging to British and U.S. firms.

26 Apr.—*War Crimes*. Ruth Clodius, a former supervisor at Ravensbrück concentration camp, was sentenced to death and Margarethe Rabe to life imprisonment by a British military court in Hamburg for their part in selecting allied nationals for death in the gas chamber there.

*Berlin*. The Soviet authorities allowed the bages which were held up at Wittenberge to pass through to the British zone but told their masters that they must not return to the Soviet zone without the new documents.

28 Apr.—The Communist parties of the British, U.S., and French zones, meeting in Herne, decided to change their name to 'German Socialist People's Party'.

*Bizone*. The Military Governors stated that wage increases might be negotiated within the limits of a 15 per cent increase in the average level of wages for a group or groups of persons covered by an agreement.

*Berlin*. At a meeting of the deputy commandants, Brig. Benson (Britain) asked the Soviet authorities to release at once the constructional equipment which they had seized so that it might be made available for the benefit of the whole city.

29 Apr.—*Soviet Zone*. The Soviet authorities announced measures for the 'improvement of the workers' economic conditions' which included the import from the U.S.S.R. of 20,000 tons of bread grain and 20,000 tons of fodder grain. It was stated that no conditions were attached to these deliveries, which would be paid for by deliveries of manufactured goods.

*Berlin*. The British and U.S. authorities stopped the movement of constructional equipment from western Berlin into the eastern sector until such time as an assurance was received from the Soviet authorities that such equipment would not be confiscated.

30 Apr.—*Strike*. A meeting of Works Council and Trade Union representatives approved a strike in the metal industry in Hanover, which had already begun unofficially the day before, as a protest against the reduction in the bread ration.

2 May—It was officially stated that the Communist Party in western Germany would not be allowed to change its name to 'German Socialist People's Party'.

The Cologne paper *Volksstimme* was suspended for having published articles tending to provoke 'disunity among the allied Powers and their forces of occupation'.

*Berlin*. The Soviet chief of information, Col. Tulpanov, said in a broadcast that a 'police terror' against all 'democratic organization' was



being conducted in the western sectors of Berlin. If the western Powers continued to split Berlin, it would soon be cut off from its hinterland in the Russian zone. 'Berlin was captured by the Soviet army and is still situated in the centre of the Soviet zone. It is thus decisively influenced by the Russian administration. Only difficulties and hardships can be caused to Berlin's population if intriguers, both German and foreign, continue to split the capital.'

3 May—*Strike*. Workers in the chemical industries in Hanover joined in the strike in protest against the reduction of the bread ration in Lower Saxony, bringing the numbers of those on strike to some 40,000.

The Dortmund paper *Westdeutsches Volksecho* was suspended for printing matter tending to 'provoke disunity among the allied Powers and their forces of occupation'.

4 May—*British Zone*. In Lower Saxony the bread ration, the reduction of which had led to strikes, was increased by 500 grammes.

5 May—*Strike*. Journalists and printers joined in the strike in Hanover, bringing the number of strikers to 72,000.

Some 20,000 workers also went on strike in Nuremburg, Augsburg, and Mannheim.

6 May—*Berlin*. The Soviet authorities stated that new regulations were being drawn up, covering German freight leaving Berlin by rail for the west, and that until they were brought into force no further movement by goods would be approved.

GREAT BRITAIN. 23 Apr.—Emigration (*see Canada*).

25 Apr.—Agreement (*see Maldives Islands*).

26 Apr.—Officer killed on Austro-Yugoslav frontier (*see Austria*).

Malaya. The Government assessed war damage claims in Malaya and Singapore, on an austerity basis, at approximately £55 million. They agreed to contribute £10 million as a free grant and back the Malayan Governments to a maximum additional liability of £35 million. In so far as those Governments might prove unable to meet this liability, the British Government would meet it by interest-free loans. They considered the remaining £10 million should be met from Japanese reparation payments. It was agreed that Britain should not be called on for over £6 million in 1949, when the payments were expected to begin, and that the same limit should be imposed in 1950 and 1951. They would not seek any contribution from Malaya in respect of the cost of the Military Administration (over £7 million).

Hong Kong. The Government accepted the recommendation of the local Government that no compensation from public funds be paid for war damage. They would not seek any contribution from Hong Kong towards the cost of the Military Administration; they would treat as free grants the advances made before and after the establishment of civil government in Hong Kong, amounting to £3,250,000; and they would give a further free grant of £1 million towards expenditure connected with the war. They were also prepared to make an interest-free loan up to £3 million to supplement local funds for the construction of a modern

airport of international standards, and a free grant of £250,000 for Hong Kong University.

28 Apr.—*Palestine*. Mr Bevin told the House of Commons that it was intended that the Arab Legion should withdraw from Palestine before the termination of the mandate. The Government were obliged by treaty to pay a subsidy to Transjordan in respect of the Legion and also to provide certain British personnel, and these obligations would continue after 15 May.

30 Apr.—*Malaya*. The report of the Commission on University Education in Malaya recommended that a full University should be established, by October 1948 if possible, with power to confer degrees and with Faculties of Arts, Science, and Medicine.

*Ceylon*. The Ceylon Minister of Home Affairs, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, and the Minister of Finance, Mr J. R. Jayawardene, had discussions with the Government in London on arrangements for Ceylon's sterling balances, the establishment of a reserve bank, the promotion of economic development, and more general monetary co-operation; and the Minister of Transport and Works, Col. J. L. Kotelawala, on civil aviation, broadcasting, and other matters.

1 May—*Gatow Air Crash*. The Government sent a Note to the U.S.S.R. claiming compensation for the loss of British life and property in the crash.

*Trade Agreement*. An agreement was concluded with Hungary covering an exchange of goods valued at £9 million. Britain would import increased quantities of food, principally eggs, bacon, and poultry, and raw materials and industrial goods. These arrangements would enable Hungary to increase its purchases of raw materials and manufactured goods from Britain and the sterling area.

*South East Asia and Malaya*. The Government decided as from that date to amalgamate the posts of Special Commissioner in South East Asia and Governor-General, Malaya. The new post, held by Mr Malcolm MacDonald, would be called Commissioner for the United Kingdom in South-East Asia.

4 May—*Review of Foreign Affairs*. Mr Bevin, speaking in the House of Commons, made the following points:

*Western Union*. This represented a fresh departure in British policy and made Britain really a part of Europe.

The treaty provided for the closest co-operation in economic, financial, social, cultural, and military matters, but it did not provide for union in the sense of some pooling of sovereignty or the creation of a European federated state. Any controversy now over theoretical issues of sovereignty would only set back the whole movement which had begun. The only course open was to unite voluntarily what could be united—merging national interests so far as possible into the common pool. Discussions had been held on financial and economic problems. The way was now clear for a joint examination of military problems. "The safety of their respective countries must be the first claim on responsible statesmen and Parliaments. This is a legitimate claim made by others to which we do not object . . . The chaotic separation of the

western Powers, if allowed to continue, would leave them open as a tempting prey. The consolidation of the west in the broad sense I have mentioned would put these Powers in a position to negotiate on such an equal footing that agreement will not only be possible but probable. But our liberty, our survival, and the maintenance of the position of the western European nations in the world must be the subject of continual organization and vigilance'.

*United Nations.* He agreed with the suggestion put forward recently by Mr St Laurent, the Canadian Minister of External Affairs (*see p. 283*) for the eventual constitution of some world-wide system of regional defence arrangements based essentially on Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations. Nothing could so successfully reinforce the Charter as a world-wide system such as he proposed, for the United Nations might then rest surely on various regional pillars and, if this fact was clearly recognized by all concerned, increased co-operation might result. Regionalism of this kind might indeed be found to be the very solution for which they had been seeking for so long in the field of collective security. By removing the sphere of attack on the part of some smaller Powers, it might eventually diminish the threatened division of the world into hostile halves.

*Commonwealth.* The Government must take great care in building up the new structure of western Europe that they did nothing to jeopardize the already existing solid framework of another union of free nations—the British Commonwealth. Nor would they overlook the importance of the overseas territories, for they were convinced that the new structure in western Europe would be all the stronger if it was closely connected with the great territories and countries overseas with which western Europe had so long had a close and historical connection.

*Berlin.* The rights of the British to be in Berlin were firmly based on agreements which were entered into at the European Advisory Commission, and at the time of the unconditional surrender of Germany between the four allied Governments. They were reinforced by the agreements and understanding reached between the four commanders-in-chief since the four-Power occupation. There could be no question that all these agreements and understandings were equally as valid and binding upon all the four Powers concerned now as they were at the time they were entered into. 'We are in Berlin as of right. It is our intention to stay there.'

*Germany.* The Government still stood for the principle of German unity but there must be development in the political life of the country, in which the Germans themselves must play a most important role. A military government could not be as efficient or as satisfactory as a government created with its roots in the people themselves.

*Trieste.* It was quite clear now that antagonism in regard to the International zone was making it impossible even to establish the zone and to set up any satisfactory organization. Britain had tried to produce co-operation between Italy and Yugoslavia and had felt that this was the way to achieve it. If this Italian territory were returned to Italy with the Italian population which resided there, it seemed that it would be a fair

frontier and one which ought to make for peace and stability in the area.

*U.S.S.R.* 'I have always felt that if we had to deal only with Russia, and not with Communist ideology, a settlement would be possible. We could reach agreement on territorial and other issues which from time to time may concern us. The trouble we are in, which is preventing agreement, is the fact that injected into this whole business is the assumption that any settlement we make must be so designed as to include methods of furthering the Communist objective. In other words, every proposal that is submitted to us has as its objective not the settlement of the problem itself on its merits but whether it will serve the Communist conception. So long as this continues the world will be kept in turmoil, because the characteristics, the philosophy, and the conception of life of the rest of the world will not permit us to indulge in compromises which are intended to achieve the objects of Communism. Until we get away from these ideological attitudes on the part of the Kremlin there will be little chance of a real and lasting settlement.'

*Palestine.* The Government had not departed from their decision to retain the mandate only until 15 May. 'The Government have always made it clear that if there was agreement between Jews and Arabs for a cease fire order or a temporary truce or some other kind of interim Government working towards a final settlement, and if they were approached by all concerned to render assistance in conjunction with others—I repeat "in conjunction with others"—this would create a new situation and they would have to consider it most carefully. But I repeat that there is no question of using our resources after 15 May to enforce any kind of settlement against the wishes of either party.'

*Far East.* Progress towards the restoration of normal conditions and the improvement of the standard of living of the peoples of the Far East generally had been made slower by the fact that the Government had not yet been able to conclude a peace treaty with Japan. Although they had missed no opportunity of making known to the other Powers concerned their view about the desirability of settling a peace treaty with Japan, they could not make progress without a substantial measure of agreement about the composition and procedure of the peace conference.

*World Food.* Reports indicated that a good harvest was likely this year. If nothing untoward happened before the harvest was gathered in, they might expect, in that increase of food supplies, a major contribution to the restoration of more normal, peaceful conditions in the world. More supplies would be available and if prices tended to fall that would in itself provide a fairer prospect for the restoration of economic equilibrium in the world. Throughout the world, and more particularly in Britain and in Europe, one of the biggest contributions that could be made for the restoration of world prosperity was to increase production, to keep prices down, and to go all out to produce a state of plenty for all. Whatever might be done in the diplomatic field, factory, farm, and workshop could make an equal contribution to the peace of the world.

*Danube.* Note suggesting a conference (see *U.S.S.R.*).

*6 May—Trieste.* The Government, in a Note to Yugoslavia, rejected the denial in the Yugoslav Note of 12 April (see page 279), that Yugo-

slav military government police had fired on occupants of an observation post inside the Anglo-American zone.

New Afghan Ambassador (*see Afghanistan*).

It was learned that a Soviet officer, Col. Tassoey, who was until recently in charge of the Soviet repatriation mission in the U.S. enclave of Bremen, had voluntarily left his country's service and had been admitted to Britain as a political refugee.

GREECE. 23 Apr.—The Army launched an operation to clear the mountains of Roumeli of rebel troops numbering some 3,000.

Bulgarian intervention (*see United Nations, Balkans Commission*). Child Conscription (*see Czechoslovakia*).

1 May—Assassination of Mr Ladas. The Minister of Justice, Mr Ladas, was mortally wounded when a hand grenade was thrown into his car in Athens. The murderer was understood to be a member of the Communist terrorist organization, *Opla*.

A state of siege was proclaimed in the southern half of Greece, including the Athens area.

Gen. Van Fleet, head of the U.S. Military Mission, described the results of the campaign in the Roumeli mountains as 'unexpectedly good'. He said 1,200 rebels had been put out of action and some 900 casualties had been inflicted in subsidiary operations.

2 May—The head of the U.S. mission, Mr Griswold, in a letter published in the press, stated that 'death sentences are being carried out not because the accused were Leftists but because they were murderers. They were duly tried and convicted under a judicial system, which, so far as I know, has never been criticized by any of the several foreign missions which have worked in Greece, nor for that matter by any foreign correspondents. A large number of the persons convicted had more than one trial and exhausted the normal measures of appeal and pardon—a time-consuming process in any democratic country. In the case of former E.L.A.S. members they were found guilty of killing fellow-Greeks in cold blood. Persons who merely instigated murder or killed collaborationists have not been considered as criminals.' He said he had seen details of the crimes committed by the first 120 to be executed. 'Names, dates, and places were all there. The crimes are in most cases brutal murder, frequently on a mass scale, of men and women, local officials, police, political opponents of the Communists; in many cases Greek hostages captured by E.L.A.S. during the rising.'

4 May—The Government ordered the execution of 152 persons for rebellious and murderous acts connected with the Communist rebellion in 1944.

6 May—The Minister of Public Order, Mr Rentis, stated that of the 2,961 persons sentenced to death for murders committed during the revolution of December 1944, 157 had been shot before 1 May (the day Mr Ladas was assassinated), 24 had been shot on 4 May, and 19 on 6 May. The Prime Minister, Mr Sophoulis, stated that the executions were agreed upon by the whole Cabinet before the death of Mr Ladas and had no connexion with that outrage.



HONG KONG. 26 *Apr.*—War damage payments (*see Great Britain*).

HUNGARY. 29 *Apr.*—*Nationalization*. Parliament passed a Bill nationalizing some 500 firms employing over one hundred workers each. (This meant that 90 per cent of industry was under State ownership or control.)

1 *May*—Trade Agreement (*see Great Britain*).

HYDERABAD. 23 *Apr.*—A firman of the Nizam said that the Prime Minister, Mir Laik Ali, had been directed to submit proposals for framing a new Constitution after giving careful thought to the opinions of all sections of the people and asked that until these proposals were formulated those political parties not now represented should join the interim administration and help in preserving peace and tranquillity.

It was learned that nearly 1,000 political prisoners had been released within the past forty-eight hours.

26 *Apr.*—Nehru statement (*see India*).

2 *May*—Nehru speech (*see India*).

INDIA. 23 *Apr.*—*Kashmir*. Plebiscite Commission (*see Security Council*).

*Hyderabad*. New constitution (*see Hyderabad*).

24 *Apr.*—*Hyderabad*. At a meeting of the All-India Congress Committee in Bombay, Pandit Nehru said he hoped the negotiations would succeed but 'that does not mean that we are afraid of following the path of war'.

Nehru statement (*see India*).

26 *Apr.*—*Hyderabad*. Mr Nehru said that the Muslim Razakars' organization in Hyderabad displayed a degree of hostility to India which could not be tolerated, and if their attitude was not that of the Nizam's Government that Government must deal with the matter, or other measures would have to be taken.

*Kashmir*. Speaking later at the All-India Committee of the Indian National Congress, Mr Nehru said he was convinced that the just case on Kashmir presented by India had suffered by members of the Security Council thinking on the old basis of Muslims and Hindus without appreciating the solid Muslim backing enjoyed by Sheikh Abdulla. Referring to Hyderabad, he said that India was anxious to avoid war but could not tolerate a foreign Power in its midst.

Nehru speech (*see India*).

2 *May*—*Kashmir*. Pandit Nehru stated in Delhi that although the military campaign would be vigorously pressed, India was not thinking in terms of a conflict with Pakistan, and Pakistan territory would not be violated.

*Hyderabad*. Pandit Nehru said that the issue was not war or accession, as he was reported to have stated on 24 April, but the right of the State's citizens to govern themselves. He admitted that economic sanctions were being applied but said the Government had only forbidden the delivery of war materials. Some provincial Governments were also refusing to



allow other kinds of goods to pass through their territories, but this was without the permission of the Central Government.

3 May—*Governor-General*. Sri Chakravarty Rajagopalachari was appointed Governor-General to succeed Lord Mountbatten, who was to relinquish the office on 21 June.

5 May—*Patiala and East Punjab Union*. The seven East Punjab Sikh states—Patiala, Kapurthala, Sind, Nabha, Faridkot, Maler Kotla, and Nalagarh—were merged into the Patiala and East Punjab Union.

INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE. 23 Apr.—The Secretary of State, Mr Marshall, left Bogotá by air for Washington. He said, 'Urgent matters require my immediate return.'

30 Apr.—The final Act was signed by twenty-one States at Quinta, Bolivar.

*Colonies*. It contained a declaration against the retention of European colonies in the Americas but referred the question to the Havana Conference in September for study and consideration. The U.S.A. opposed and abstained from voting on this resolution.

*Communism*. It contained also a declaration against Communism.

A basic agreement, which was to be placed in treaty form, was reached on inter-American economic co-operation.

IRAQ. 25 Apr.—*Palestine*. It was stated that the flow of oil along the pipeline to Haifa had been stopped and that engineers and labourers of the Iraq Petroleum Company had been withdrawn from Haifa.

It was announced that full agreement on co-operation between the armies of the Arab League Member States in defence of and entry into Palestine had been reached at the Amman meeting, and that plans put forward by King Abdullah were accepted unconditionally (*see also Transjordan*).

ITALY. 25 Apr.—Many people were arrested in Milan after former Communist partisans, who had marched through the town in defiance of the government ban on open air gatherings, had to be dispersed by police. One carabinieri was killed by a shot from the crowd.

26 Apr.—There was a clash between patrols at the frontier with Yugoslavia; an Italian and a Yugoslav guard were killed.

30 Apr.—May Day (*see W.F.T.U.*).

4 May—A letter from the President, Sr de Nicola, to the Vice-President, Sr Pacciardi, was published, in which he declined to stand for the presidency.

JAPAN. 24 Apr.—*Korean Riots*. An order was made closing all Korean schools which did not comply with the law providing for the use of Japanese textbooks. At Kobe some 1,000 Koreans forced their way into the Kyogo prefectural office and after threatening the Governor and holding him prisoner, compelled him to rescind the order. A state of emergency was declared and some 200 persons were arrested, among them Japanese Communists.

25 *Apr.*—It was announced by Military Government that from 1 May, newspapers, magazines, books, pamphlets, and sheet music might be sent to any address in Japan.

Some 20,000 Koreans also wrecked the Prefecture office in Osaka.

28 *Apr.*—It was learned that the Diet had passed on 15 April the Maritime Safety Authority Law providing for the establishment of a maritime safety board, composed of not more than 10,000 persons, to prevent, detect, and suppress violations of the laws of Japan 'in harbours, bays, and coastal waters of the high seas adjacent to Japan'. The vessels used would not exceed 125 in number nor 50,000 gross tons in total tonnage.

*Allied Council.* Gen. Kislenko (U.S.S.R.), commenting on the law at a meeting of the Council, declared that not only did the existing strength of the Japanese police and the 'incessant increase of its units' confront the allies with a revival of the Japanese armed forces, but that allied H.Q. 'unilaterally sanctions the expansion of police forces and assists the Japanese Government in equipping them'.

Withdrawal of New Zealand troops (*see New Zealand*).

27 *Apr.*—*Korean Riots.* Gen. Eichelberger, C.O., U.S. Eighth Army, who had arrived in Kobe to investigate the riots, stated: 'We now have under arrest some seven self-professed Japanese Communists who have been positively identified as being involved in the Kobe incident.' The headquarters of the Communist Party at Kobe issued a statement addressed to all Koreans, in which it insisted that 'the right of the race' must be protected, that all arrested Koreans must be released, and that Korean schools should be allowed to continue to function, all expenses to be borne by the Government. The statement ended with an appeal to 'pressure-resisting Korean brothers' to join the Communist Party.

LEBANON. 24 *Apr.*—*Palestine.* Some 9,000 Arab refugees arrived from Haifa.

25 *Apr.*—*Palestine.* Crowds of demonstrators marched through Beirut to the President's Palace. Speeches accused the Arab Governments of negligence in failing to send adequate military assistance to the Palestine Arabs. The demonstrators threatened to declare civil disobedience and a continued fast until the Arab armies entered Palestine.

30 *Apr.*—*Palestine.* The Regent of Iraq conferred with the President, the President of Syria, and the secretary-general of the Arab League, Abdurrahman Azzam Pasha.

MALAYA. 26 *Apr.*—War damage payments (*see Great Britain*).

30 *Apr.*—University Education Commission (*see Great Britain*).

MALDIVÉ ISLANDS. 25 *Apr.*—A new agreement regulating the relationship between the Sultan's Government and the British Government was signed in Malé, which was visited by the Governor General of Ceylon, Sir Henry Moore, and the U.K. High Commissioner in Ceylon, Sir Walter Hankinson.

NEW ZEALAND. 28 *Apr.*—The Defence Minister, Mr Jones, stated that the New Zealand army component of the occupation force of Japan would begin to withdraw in July and complete its withdrawal by September. He said the Government did not intend to replace the New Zealand force.

NORWAY. 23 *Apr.*—*Antarctica.* A scientific expedition returned after six months work, mainly in the Bellingshausen and Roald Amundsen Seas.

PAKISTAN. 26 *Apr.*—*Sind.* It was announced that the Prime Minister of Sind, Muhammad Ayyub Khuhro, had been dismissed under order from Mr Jinnah for 'maladministration, gross misconduct in the discharge of his duty and responsibility, and corruption'.

3 *May*—*Sind.* Pir Illahi Bakhsh was sworn in as Premier. The others in the Cabinet of four were Mir Ghulam Ali Khan Talpur, Miran Muhammad Shah, and Muhammad Azam.

PALESTINE. 23 *Apr.*—*Haifa.* A Jewish Agency spokesman said that the exodus of Arabs had been carried out deliberately to besmirch the Jews, to influence the Arab Governments to send more help, and to clear the ground for an attack by regular Arab forces later.

*Jerusalem.* The findings of the Government inquiry into the Ben Yehuda Street explosion (*see p. 166*) were published and stated that none of the evidence given to the police or contained in statements made to the Jewish Committee of Inquiry established that the perpetrators were members of the Security Forces. Police investigations had failed to establish the identity of the men or the community to which they belonged.

New Jewish attacks with armoured cars and infantry on the Arab villages of Beit Aqsa, Biddu, and Nebi Samuel (all previously claimed as occupied by Hagana) were beaten off. Jewish casualties were estimated at 100 killed and wounded.

24 *Apr.*—*Jerusalem.* Jews attacked the Sheikh Jarrah quarter and occupied some Arab positions. They were driven out later by British troops.

25 *Apr.*—The Arabs blocked the Jaffa-Jerusalem road in two places. The Jews attacking Arab villages north-west of Jerusalem, lost three armoured cars and ammunition.

*Jaffa.* The Irgun Zvai Leumi began an attack with mortar fire on Arab positions in Jaffa. Hagana radio in Tel Aviv subsequently said that Irgun claims to have penetrated into Jaffa were fictitious.

*Lydda Airport.* International air services to and from the port were suspended.

Pipeline report (*see Iraq*). Arab military talks (*see Transjordan*). Demonstrations (*see Egypt, Lebanon, Syria*).

*Haifa.* Arabs continued to move northward in large numbers. A ship carrying 785 illegal Jewish immigrants was intercepted off Haifa and the immigrants removed to Cyprus.

26 Apr.—King Abdullah's message (*see Transjordan*).

The High Commissioner, Sir Alan Cunningham, in reply to King Abdullah's message, said that what happened in Palestine after the mandate was beyond his competence, but he would forward the message to the British Government. He assured the King of his continued efforts for peace and said he shared his concern for the Arabs of Palestine.

A ship carrying some 600 illegal immigrants was intercepted off Haifa and brought into port.

*Haifa.* Jews attacked Acre with mortar and small-arms fire and, according to Hagana, drove the Arabs from their positions. Some shells hit the prison and about 140 Arab prisoners escaped. Attacks were later made on Tireh, near Haifa.

*Jaffa.* The Irgun stated they had attacked Jaffa and 'penetrated deeply' into the city. They said they had encountered heavy machine-gun fire from British Army tanks.

The British Army moved out of Alamein camp, near Jerusalem, which was at once occupied by Arabs.

27 Apr.—Commander Leggat, a member of the staff of Sir Hugh Dow, who was to be British representative in Palestine after the end of the mandate, was shot dead by Arabs in Jerusalem.

The Government stated that all Transjordan troops in Palestine were under the control of the G.O.C. and that 'their conduct is not in question'.

Hagana and the Irgun signed an agreement in Tel Aviv providing for full co-operation in military operations throughout Palestine.

Troops fired on Arab looters at Lydda airport, killing one Arab.

Jewish terrorists raided a British bank in Tel Aviv and stole £P195,000.

28 Apr.—Truce for the Old City of Jerusalem (*see Trusteeship Council*).

Discovery of arms in food and clothing parcels (*see U.S.A.*).

Bevin statement on Arab Legion (*see Great Britain*).

*Jaffa.* Jews again attacked with very heavy mortar and small-arms fire and gained ground in the Tel Aviv border area. British troops, supported by the R.A.F., engaged Jews in this district. Jews also attacked the village of Selmeh, east of Tel Aviv.

One British and two Arab constables were shot dead by Jews north of Haifa.

29 Apr.—*Jaffa.* Jews attacked heavily from the north. The Arabs stated that their 'liberation army' had broken through into the town and had shelled Tel Aviv from positions there. The Government told the Jewish Agency that unless the attack on Jaffa ceased full military action would be taken. A general 'cease fire' was then agreed to, and there was a meeting between the British and the Jews and Arabs.

*Haifa.* The High Commissioner visited the town to inspect conditions.

Consular commission's appeal to King Abdullah (*see Security Council*).

30 Apr.—*Jerusalem.* The Government warned the Jewish Agency that unless Jewish attacks ceased, severe military measures would be taken

against the Jewish positions. There was fighting outside the Old City walls.

New U.S. Trusteeship proposal (see *United Nations*).

Arab conference (see *Lebanon*). Alleged U.S. pressure (see *Egypt*). Report on situation (see *United Nations*).

2 May—*British Reinforcements*. British military headquarters announced: 'Owing to unwarranted aggression on the part of Irgun Zvai Leumi in Jaffa, the situation in Palestine has seriously deteriorated. This theatre has now assumed operational priority over some other commitments in the Middle East. As a consequence considerable reinforcements of infantry, tanks, guns, and marine commandos had to be dispatched to Palestine in the cause of general security.'

*Jerusalem*. Arabs shelled the city from a point about three miles to the north-west. The British authorities ordered a 'cease fire' for forty-eight hours in Katamon.

3 May—*Jerusalem*. A cease fire was observed in the Katamon district.

5 May—British military headquarters announced that one British officer and five soldiers had been found murdered two miles south of Nathanya.

POLAND. 24 Apr.—*International Trade Fair*. The (Communist) Minister of Industry and Trade, Mr Hilary Minc, opening the Fair at Poznan, said that Poland wanted 'to tear down the iron curtain' by concluding trade treaties with both East and West Europe. Polish industry was now for the first time producing more than before the war.

PORTUGAL. 28 Apr.—The Prime Minister, Dr Salazar, speaking in Lisbon on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of his entry into the Government, proposed the admission of Spain into the European Recovery Programme as a means of 'organizing the resistance of western Europe against the U.S.S.R.' The idea of Federal Union as part of such resistance seemed to him 'quite impracticable'.

29 Apr.—The War Ministry announced that sixteen persons who had been under arrest accused of participation in the uprising in April 1947 (see III, pp. 252 and 353) had been released. The Vice-Admiral, six Army officers, and six civilians who were still under arrest would be court-martialled shortly.

SIAM. 4 May—*U.S.S.R.* Diplomatic relations were inaugurated.

SOUTH AFRICA. 23 Apr.—*U.S.S.R.* In an address to men and women of the Defence Forces at an Investiture, General Smuts said: 'A great Power is on the move. We do not want war. We are not warmongers and for that reason we must be prepared. We want him to know that he must either stop or fight his way through, thereby facing danger himself. It is no longer the case of small and isolated nations sparring. A powerful juggernaut is moving forward. The world is once again in danger. The shadow is moving forward over Europe and already covers

many countries. People are already beginning to say this is the beginning of a new and greater war. But it may be that the manifestation of evil will take some form other than war. War is not the greatest evil before us—there are others just as great.'

SPAIN. 29 Apr.—Lt. Gen. Kindelan, former chief of Franco's air force, was sentenced to two month's detention for expressing royalist views in a speech at a private gathering.

2 May—*Trade Agreement*. The Government concluded a one-year agreement with France under the terms of which there would be a total of commercial exchanges amounting to about 25,000 million francs a year—France and the French Union sending to Spain phosphates, chemical products, and vehicles, and receiving in exchange minerals and metals, olive oil, oranges, and wine. Transactions would be at the exchange rate of 19·6 francs to the peseta.

SWEDEN. 2 May—*May Day*. The Prime Minister, Mr Erlander, said to a Social Democratic rally in Stockholm: 'We are prepared to defend our freedom and independence against attack from abroad.' The Communist '*coup*' in Czechoslovakia was a testing-time not only for Prague but also for Stockholm'. He welcomed the Marshall Plan and said that the Socialist Governments of Britain, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden were 'no small asset in post-war European reconstruction'. Sweden would follow a 'free and unfettered foreign policy'.

SYRIA. 24 Apr.—*Palestine*. The Parliament met to hear a Government statement.

The Government took measures to provide food and shelter for the thousands of Arab refugees from Palestine.

30 Apr.—*Palestine*. President at conference (*see Lebanon*).

TRANSJORDAN. 25 Apr.—*Palestine*. Emergency military consultations took place between King Abdullah, the Regent of Iraq, the Lebanese Prime Minister, the Arab Commander in Palestine, Fawzi Qawuqji, the Inspector-General of the Arab Liberation Army, General Safwat Pasha, and other Arab leaders. Later the Iraqi Regent and the Lebanese Premier flew to Cairo to consult King Farouk and the Arab League Political Committee (*see also Iraq*).

26 Apr.—*Palestine*. King Abdullah sent a message to the High Commissioner describing the anger which his people felt after the Jewish attacks at Deir Yasin, Tiberias, and Haifa, and warning the Jews not to do the same in Jerusalem and Jaffa. He declared that the protection of Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and Nazareth must be placed in the hands of the Arabs.

High Commissioner's reply (*see Palestine*).

The King later told the press that if the Jews in Palestine did not take his advice and live as citizens in an Arab State, he would 'have the pleasure and honour of rescuing Palestine'. He added that the only way to solve the problem now that peaceful means had failed was by war.



29 *Apr.*—*Palestine*. Appeal by Consular commission (see *Security Council*).

4 *May*—*Palestine*. The King, in a cable to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, declared: 'We declare our readiness to give the Jews in Palestine full Arab nationality in a unitary State, sharing all that we share, while yet enjoying special administration in particular areas.' The calamities occurring in Palestine were beyond belief and after 15 May would reach a pinnacle of horror. He recognized that the Jews desire to live in amity with the Arabs, and his proposal was designed to end the slaughter and to allow 'the people to live in peace and security forever'.

TRIESTE FREE TERRITORY. 27 *Apr.*—The Allied Military Government announced the closing down until 2 May of a number of frontier posts facing Yugoslavia and the Yugoslav zone because of the 'exceptional public safety situation in Trieste'.

30 *Apr.*—*May Day*. The Yugoslav authorities sent a Note protesting to Allied Military Government that the temporary closing of the frontiers, ordered as a precautionary measure to safeguard law and order during the celebrations, was 'contrary to the Peace Treaty, and violates the basic democratic rights of the population'.

TURKEY. 4 *May*—It was learned that a contract had been signed between the Ministry of Public Works and the U.S. mission for the construction of a network of roads.

## UNITED NATIONS

### BALKANS COMMISSION

23 *Apr.*—The Cavalla observer team reported that it had watched a column of seventy-five men cross the frontier into Greece from Bulgaria in Bulgarian military uniforms and helmets, which were later seen among the attacking rebels.

### ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

26 *Apr.*—The Commission met in Geneva, 29 countries being represented.

28 *Apr.*—Mr Arutiunian (U.S.S.R.) declared that the committees of the Commission had shown partiality in making their allocations, to the detriment of states in the eastern European group and that the U.S.A. and Britain misused the work of the committees for the purpose of seizing European markets and subjecting the economy of European countries to their political and military strategic interests. He said that those directing the work had by-passed the Control Council in Germany and used the committees of the Commission to cover their unilateral actions aimed at the partition of Germany and the destruction of the Potsdam decisions.

Mr Hector McNeil (Britain) said Britain's policy had not been dictated by any national or bizonal aims. Indeed, from the short-term point of view, Britain had incurred certain disadvantages by co-operation, but

had done so in the belief that it would be justified in the long run. Britain maintained its position that there could be no satisfactory economic recovery for Europe without German economic recovery and that economic co-operation by Germany was desirable in the best interests of Germany and Europe. This had been the over-riding consideration, but Britain could not disregard the security aspects, of which it had very good reason for being conscious. The work of the E.C.E. organs was of a uniformly high quality, notably in the field of coal and coke allotment, which would result in a yearly increase of more than a million tons of steel.

30 Apr.—*Germany.* The executive secretary, Mr Gunnar Myrdal, said that in accordance with the wishes of the Commission, he had tried to set up a branch office of the Secretariat close to the headquarters of the Allied Control Council in Berlin, but had not succeeded; as a provisional measure he had continued the Minden office, now transferred to Frankfurt.

Mr Arutiunian (U.S.S.R.) said the Ruhr was being industrialized for Anglo-American benefit. By serving Anglo-American interests in the Western zone the E.C.E. might encounter destructive consequences. The Western zone occupation authorities had opposed the U.S.S.R.'s attempt to establish central economic bodies in Germany. The E.C.E. could not maintain liaison with the individual occupying powers.

Mr McNeil (Britain) objected to the use of the Commission as a platform for Soviet propaganda. The Soviet assertion amounted to a declaration that it was better to have no office at all if it were not the office of the kind the Soviet wanted. He moved that the Commission approve the executive secretary's report.

6 May—*European Recovery Programme.* Mr McNeil said that no one on the Soviet side had produced the slightest evidence in support of the repeated statement that the programme was designed to promote deep and sinister interests on the part of American capitalist monopolists because they feared a slump. Nor was there any evidence adduced to support the statements that the object of the European recovery plan was to deprive the western European countries of their political independence and that Governments would sacrifice their sovereignty by entering into agreements. Mr Labouisse (U.S.A.) said that the accusations made would be ludicrous if they had not such malicious intent. The U.S.S.R. and other eastern European countries were trying to wreck the recovery programme because they feared it might hinder Soviet expansion and imperialistic aims.

M. André Philip (France) said the programme was important for Europe but it represented only 2 per cent of the total U.S. production. Western Europe would continue to work to the bitter end in the task of recovery whatever the Soviets might do.

#### FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION

4 May—Sir John Boyd Orr, the retiring Director-General, told the press that the world population was increasing by 20 million yearly, and that there was no virgin soil to bring into use for food production. 'The

whole human race is rumbling on to destruction. There is only a fifty-fifty chance of getting over this food problem. If it is not solved there will be chaos in the world in the next fifty years. The nations of the world are insane, they are spending one-third of their national incomes preparing for the next war. They are applying their energies to building up a war machine instead of applying the world's steel and industrial production to conserving the resources of the land. That is the only basis of civilization.' The world food shortage was only just beginning. Soil erosion was taking place all over the world. In America one-quarter of the land which the emigrants had to begin with was so badly damaged that it was no longer good farming land. Soil erosion was the big problem but the Governments were not interested.

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

23 Apr.—*Palestine*. Mr Creech-Jones (Britain), told the Assembly that he did not consider that any proposals for a definite settlement could be effected unless backed by very substantial means of enforcement. It might result from that necessity that the United Nations was now obliged to aim at a 'more modest objective' and to use all practical means at its disposal to prevent developments in Palestine from endangering the peace of the world without seeking at this time to arrive at a final solution of a problem which had baffled the mandatory Power for so long. In these efforts the British delegation would co-operate to the best of their ability, 'subject, of course, to the limitations involved in the decision of my Government to terminate their responsibility for the administration of Palestine next month and to withdraw the last of our forces before the beginning of August'. He asked the Governments which stood by the partition scheme to say honestly if they were prepared to help in imposing it by force on a majority of the population of Palestine. Was such action likely to secure the co-operation and good will essential to the common life of Palestine? In any event could such forces be provided for effective action by 15 May? The fact was that they could not, and to the British Government's mind the truce proposed by the Security Council on U.S. initiative was of the first importance, and the United Nations should take every possible step to obtain it. It looked, however, as though the Security Council's call would be ignored, as there was no effective machinery to supervise the observance of a truce. Temporary trusteeship had been suggested on an earlier occasion by the British Government to the Arabs and Jews, but without result. Nevertheless, it was a proposal that would provide a stabilizing authority which would tide over the period from the termination of the mandate until the two parties had agreed upon a suitable form of Government. He promised the most sympathetic consideration to any proposals under which the United Nations might assume responsibility for the safety of holy places. An organized effort in that direction would, he believed, have the support of the Arab world and of Jewry. The question had now become one of extreme urgency. He concluded with an appeal to the nations of the world to make the Palestine issue less acute by opening their doors to the thousands and thousands of displaced Jews who were

waiting in bitterness and humiliation for some haven in which their sense of worth and dignity could be realized.

26 *Apr.*—*Palestine.* Jamal Husseini (Arab Higher Committee) said that if the object of trusteeship was to provide an interim Government for a short period until a final settlement was reached the Arab Higher Committee would consider its provisions. They would do so, however, only on the understanding that trusteeship was intended to lead to the independence of Palestine as a single democratic State. Failing agreement on these lines, the Arabs in Palestine would proceed as follows: Article 22 of the covenant of the League of Nations and Article 28 of the mandate provided that there should emerge an independent Government of Palestine when the mandate terminated. It was the mandatory Power's responsibility to bring it into being, but, having failed to do so, the overwhelming majority of the people of Palestine had decided to carry it out for themselves, thus expressing their inalienable rights of self-determination. Such action was in complete harmony with the the overwhelming majority of the people of Palestine had decided to carry it out for themselves, thus expressing their inalienable rights of self-determination. Such action was in complete harmony with the Charter of the United Nations.

*Jerusalem.* The Assembly decided by 46 votes to none, the Soviet group abstaining, to ask the Trusteeship Council to study with the Mandatory Power and the Jews and Arabs, suitable measures for the protection of Jerusalem and its inhabitants and to submit their proposals within the shortest possible time. Before the vote was taken a message from Gen. Smuts was read out in which he warned them that disaster in Jerusalem would be both a profound shock to the civilized world and an indelible disgrace before history.

3 *May*—*Palestine.* Mr Creech Jones said the Assembly should: (a) work for a truce for the whole of Palestine to prevent open war when the mandate ended; (b) take vigorous action through all its members on the displaced persons problem; and (c) establish United Nations authority in Palestine to provide an element of continuity when the Mandatory Power left.

4 *May*—*Palestine.* A sub-committee was set up to report on the possibilities of a provisional régime for the country.

Message from King Abdullah to Secretary-General (*see Transjordan*).

6 *May*—The Assembly endorsed by thirty-five votes to none the work of the Trusteeship Council for the protection of Jerusalem.

#### INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

23 *Apr.*—*United Nations Membership.* The Court met in Public Session to consider the request of the General Assembly (*see III, p. 678*) for an advisory opinion on the conditions of admission of a state to membership of the United Nations.

25 *Apr.*—*United Nations Membership.* The hearings were concluded.

#### INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE ORGANIZATION

23 *Apr.*—The Organization stated that they had helped in the

repatriation of over 7,250,000 refugees since the end of the war. During the eight months ending in February 1948 some 193,000 refugees and displaced persons were resettled.

#### PALESTINE COMMISSION

29 *Apr.*—Sr Pablo Azcarate, head of the Commission's advance party in Jerusalem, reported that partition was an accomplished fact in Palestine, and said he regarded the Jews as being in a favourable position to defend what they considered theirs.

#### SECURITY COUNCIL

23 *Apr.*—*Palestine.* By 8 votes to nil, with three abstentions (U.S.S.R., Ukraine, Colombia), the Council appointed a Commission consisting of the French, Belgian, and U.S. Consuls in Jerusalem, on the proposal of Mr W. Austin (U.S.A.) to assist it in bringing about the observance of its truce resolution.

*Kashmir.* The Council approved the nomination of Belgium and Colombia to the Plebiscite Commission.

29 *Apr.*—*Palestine.* The Consular commission informed the Council that they had appealed to King Abdullah of Transjordan to abstain from 'any military decisions or acts'.

30 *Apr.*—*Kashmir.* India selected Czechoslovakia, and Pakistan, Argentina, as members of the Commission.

*Palestine.* The President read a telegram from the Truce Commission, saying: 'The general situation in Palestine is deteriorating rapidly. Government departments are closing down daily. Normal activities of the country are coming to a standstill. The Jewish Agency is acting as a general organizing body for the Jewish areas and attempting to replace suspended Government activities. Arab areas are depending on municipal authorities without central authority. Telegraph facilities have ceased in most areas, as have telephone trunk lines. Intensity of the fighting is increasing steadily. Camps and other important areas vacated by British forces immediately become battlegrounds. Operations on a larger and more important scale than Haifa are expected shortly. Rumours are tending to increase nervous tension in the country.'

6 *May*—*Kashmir.* Mr Ayyangar notified the Council that India rejected their proposals for the settlement of the Kashmir dispute, but that if the Council still desired to send a good offices commission it would be in no way impeded.

#### TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

27 *Apr.*—*Palestine.* M. Garreau (France) proposed that an international police force of 1,000 volunteers should be sent to Jerusalem to guard the population of the holy places. Mr Creech Jones said he thought that, given Arab-Jewish co-operation, it would be possible to send an international force, and he supported the idea; but he pointed out that Jerusalem was of the greatest importance strategically to both Arabs and Jews. Fighting might surge up to the very walls of the city, creating such excitement inside that the force proposed by the French would be

inadequate. Jerusalem depended for its water on the surrounding countryside, which would be the scene of fierce fighting, and he did not think the safety of the city could be fully secured in the absence of a military truce covering the whole of Palestine. M. Garreau urged the appointment of a chief of police, who, as special delegate of the United Nations, would begin recruiting at once.

The U.S.S.R. sent a delegate to the Council for the first time.

28 Apr.—*Palestine*. The Council negotiated a Jewish-Arab agreement for a truce in the Old City of Jerusalem.

*Pacific Islands*. U.S. plans for government (see U.S.A.).

30 Apr.—*Palestine*. Mr Benjamin Gerig (U.S.A.) proposed that a temporary trusteeship should be arranged for Jerusalem as a whole. He said that the insulation of Jerusalem and its inhabitants and holy places from the conflict and the provision of administrative services were minimum objectives on which men did not differ. A special temporary régime in the form of a simple trusteeship administered by the council might best meet the need. It would, of course, be without prejudice to the rights, claims, or position of the Arabs and Jews, or to the final political settlement. If the Assembly should decide upon trusteeship for Palestine as a whole, trusteeship for Jerusalem would of course be incorporated therein. As in the case of Palestine as a whole, the United States was prepared to co-operate fully with the Trusteeship Council and with other members of the United Nations to take its share in the United Nations responsibility for the establishment and operation of such a provisional municipal administration for the city. That would necessarily include arrangements for access to the city and provisions for food and water supplies.

4 May—*Palestine: Jerusalem*. The Council reported to the Assembly that Jews and Arabs were agreeable to the British High Commissioner appointing a neutral acceptable to both parties to carry out the functions of the Jerusalem municipal commission after 15 May.

U.S.A. 23 Apr.—Marshall returns (see *Inter-American Conference*).

28 Apr.—*Palestine*. President Truman appointed Mr John Hilldring as a special assistant to Mr Marshall in charge of Palestine affairs.

Police seized from a house in New York large quantities of arms and ammunition and knives packed in bags containing food and clothing, consigned to persons in Palestine. Two men, who stated they were members of a Zionist youth movement, were arrested.

29 Apr.—*Pacific Islands*. Mr Marshall, in a letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, suggested legislation for the territory (of which the U.S.A. is trustee under the United Nations) under which the President would appoint a Governor to act under the direction of a civilian agency. The Governor would set up six districts: the Marianas, Palau, Yap, Touk, Ponape, and the Marshall Islands, each with their own administrator, and would later plan elections for the territorial legislature. The legislative power would be exercised by Congress, but the administrators would consult their local advisory councils. Charters would be prepared at a later stage for a certain amount of



localized self-government. The President would also appoint a Chief Justice. It was later announced that Vice-Admiral Dewitt Clinton Ramsey, C.-in-C. Pacific, had been appointed High Commissioner of the Islands.

3 May—*European Recovery Programme*. Mr Howard Bruce, a banker and company director, was appointed deputy administrator of the programme.

5 May—*European Recovery Programme*. Mr Hoffman announced that he had authorized the purchase of \$33,500,000 worth of Canadian wheat, flour, and bacon for Britain.

*United Nations*. Mr Marshall, commenting in evidence before the House Foreign Affairs Committee on suggestions for a fundamental revision of the United Nations Charter, emphasized that the problems presented to those who desired peace were not questions of structure, nor were they solvable merely by new forms of organization. What was required was the performance of obligations already undertaken and fidelity to pledges already given. The United Nations was conceived on the assumption that certain conditions would develop after the war: first, that the major Powers charged with the responsibility for working out the peace would complete the task promptly and effectively; secondly, that the critical economic and political conditions left by the war would be brought to an end as speedily as possible; and thirdly that co-operation among the great Powers, pledged during the war and reflected in the charter, would be continued. 'The United Nations was specifically designed to preserve peace, not to make it.' When universal agreement to the Charter was achieved, the strength of the major Powers in relation to one another was such that no one of them could safely break the peace if the others stood united in defence of the Charter. In the present circumstances of the world, the maintenance of a comparable power relationship was fundamental to world security. Since the summer of 1945 it had gradually become apparent that the post-war conditions expected were not being realized. The failure of concerted action by the major allies made it necessary for the Government to attempt to create those conditions in co-operation with other States that were willing to do so. But it became progressively clearer that there were serious misconceptions in the minds of the Soviet leaders concerning western civilization and stabilized working relations between the U.S.S.R. and other members of the community of nations. He said it was a misconception to suppose that domination of the world by a single system was inevitable, and to suppose that differing systems could not live side by side in peace under the basic rules of international conduct prescribed by the Charter of the United Nations. These rules were obligatory for all members. The fundamental task of the United Nations and of U.S. foreign policy was to dispel the Soviet misconceptions and bring about a more realistic view of what was possible and what was impossible in the relations of the Soviet Union and the world at large. The first step must be to ensure the freedom and independence of the members. The ability of democratic peoples to preserve their independence in the face of totalitarian threats depended on their own determination to do so. That, in turn, depended

on the development of a healthy economic and political life and a genuine sense of security. The U.S.A. was therefore responding to requests for economic assistance, and was now considering the steps necessary to bring the national military establishment to the minimum required for international security. By such arrangements as the Rio treaty between the American Republics and the union recently organized between certain countries of western Europe, under the Charter, steps had been taken to bulwark international security and the maintenance of peace. The U.S.A. intended to encourage and support such arrangements by free nations. The projects for Charter revision appeared to rest on the assumption that, if the veto could be removed and the United Nations be provided with armed forces, aggression could be prevented and the principal barrier to world peace thereby cease to exist. That general assumption rested on incomplete analysis of U.S. foreign problems and of the part that the international organization could play in solving them. The immediate problem was to restore economic, social, and political health in the world and give a sense of security. Responsibility for well-being would always rest primarily on the nations concerned, but the United Nations could play an increasingly active role. Military strength was not the element that would be paramount in the long run, and emphasis placed solely on that did a disservice to the cause of peace. Revision achieved without Governments that were unwilling to accept it would destroy the present United Nations, for the result would be dispersal of the community of nations, followed by the formation of rival military alliances and isolated groups of States; but when the substance of the world situation improved the United Nations would be able to work with full effectiveness.

6 May—*Defence*. The Senate approved an appropriation of \$3,198 million to provide a 70-group Air Force.

U.S.S.R. 27 Apr.—Appointment of delegate (*see Trusteeship Council*).

30 Apr.—*May Day*. The Minister of the Armed Forces, Marshal Bulganin, in an order of the day said: 'Fulfilling the programme of building Communism, true to their policy of peace, the Soviet people and their Government do not forget the intrigues of international reaction directed against our country and the countries of new democracy, against the cause of peace throughout the world. In these circumstances the Soviet Army and the Soviet Navy, called upon to safeguard the security of the Soviet people, must be constantly in military preparedness and fulfil with honour their military duty to their motherland.'

1 May—*May Day*. Addressing a parade, Marshal Bulganin declared that the U.S.S.R. wanted 'a lasting and stable peace'. He said: 'The U.S.S.R. has always stood and stands for peaceful relations, based on equal rights between all nations, great and small. This is shown by the treaties of friendship, co-operation, and mutual aid concluded by our Government with Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Poland, Rumania, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Albania.' Urging 'decisive successes to ensure the fulfilment of the five-year plan in four years', he called for increased

production, a big harvest, advanced techniques, and the raising of the cultural level of the working people.

*Gatow Air Crash.* Note (see *Great Britain*).

4 May—*Siam.* Diplomatic relations were inaugurated.

Diplomatic relations broken off (see *Colombia*).

*Danube.* The Government, in Notes to Britain, the U.S.A., and France, suggested holding a conference in Belgrade during May on the future of the Danube (see also p. 197).

6 May—Soviet officer refugee (see *Great Britain*).

WEST EUROPEAN SOCIALIST CONFERENCE. 25 Apr.—The Conference met in Paris.

*European Unity.* It was decided to establish in Paris a Socialist office for research and propaganda in favour of a United States of Europe. It would co-operate with the Committee of International Socialist Parties (1) to provide every European Socialist Party with information on all efforts towards the political and economic federation of Europe; (2) to co-ordinate the actions of the various Socialist Parties in relation to their respective Governments in favour of the United Socialist States of Europe; (3) to establish a permanent organization of Socialist Parties of the countries participating in E.R.P. and in the Treaty of Brussels, parallel to that of the Governments, to study the operation of E.R.P. and the Treaty.

*Spain.* A resolution was passed that Socialist Parties should urge on their Governments co-ordinated action to free the Spanish people from their servitude in order that Spain should play its part in Western European Unity.

WESTERN UNION. 25 Apr.—*Treaty of Brussels.* The first meeting of the Ambassadors' Committee of the Consultative Council was held in London. It was decided that the chair should be taken in rotation, changing every three months. Mr E. Star Busmann (Netherlands) was appointed Secretary.

26 Apr.—Representatives of the Socialist Parties of the countries signatory to the Treaty of Brussels met in Paris and decided to set up a permanent Joint Socialist Committee in Brussels under the chairmanship of M. Max Bouset (Belgium).

28 Apr.—*Economic Committee.* The five Finance Ministers met in Brussels. M. Eyskens (Belgium) submitted a plan calling for convertibility of all the five currencies, and, as an alternative to the dollar pool, a five-Power pool fed from the proceeds of trade with other countries.

30 Apr.—*Economic Committee.* A *communiqué* issued by the Finance Ministers stated that they approved in principle proposals for facilitating intra-European payments in the period covered by the European Recovery Programme. They recommended that instructions should be given to their representatives on the organization for European Economic Co-operation to invite the organization to take, without delay, the measures necessary to re-establish economic equilibrium between western Europe and the western hemisphere on the one hand and

between the different countries of western Europe on the other. These steps might involve the development and redirection of their production in order to arrive at a better co-ordination of their economic activity, and would be directed to all measures capable of strengthening the commercial relations and the economic ties between them. Referring to the Benelux proposal put to the European Economic Co-operation Committee in Paris in 1947 to organize a multilateral system of payments in Europe, the five Ministers agreed that their experts should remain at Brussels to establish the scheme in the light of the directions given to them by the Ministers during their present meeting.

*Defence Conference.* The Defence Ministers and Chiefs of Staff of Britain, France, and the three Benelux nations met in London. The following statement was issued: 'In accordance with Article (3) of the *communiqué* issued on 17 April 1948 by the Foreign Ministers of the five Powers signatory to the Brussels Treaty, the Defence Ministers of the five Powers held their first meeting in London to-day. They were attended by the Chiefs of Staff of their countries and other Service representatives. The Ministers decided upon the organization and composition of the Military Committee of the five Powers, which will be of a permanent character. This committee will examine the common defence problems within the scope of the Brussels Treaty.' Article 3 of the *communiqué* referred to said: 'The security problems envisaged in the treaty shall normally be handled by the responsible Ministers of the different countries, who will meet in London to discuss them whenever this is deemed necessary.'

*Economic Committee.* The Conference concluded. It agreed to take concrete steps to co-ordinate the economies of the five countries by 'development and redirection of production'. A scheme for multilateral payments in Europe was approved in principle, and the experts remained to draft a plan.

**WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS.** 30 Apr.—*Rome Meetings. May Day.* In the Executive Bureau, Mr Vincent Tewson (T.U.C.) demanded the withdrawal of an unauthorized May Day manifesto which had been issued by the Secretariat. He was supported by the C.I.O., Canadian, Australian, Benelux, and Scandinavian delegations. The manifesto contained the statement: 'Monopolists are attempting to attach unacceptable anti-democratic conditions to the granting of aid to war-stricken countries.' The British delegation afterwards told the press: 'We regard the terms of this manifesto as a challenge to T.U.C. policy and that of trade unions in other countries participating in E.R.P.' The delegates agreed to attend a May Day demonstration as a friendly gesture to the Italian Trade Union Movement, but only on the understanding that no mention was made in the speeches of E.R.P. or of the manifesto.

1 May—*Rome Meetings.* Mr Vincent Tewson (T.U.C.) and Mr Jim Carey (C.I.O.) declared that the Federation's secretariat under the direction of M. Saillant was inefficient, that it had shown itself biased in favour of Communism, and that attacks on British and American trade

union leaders in Russia and eastern Europe had been intolerable. M. Kupers (Netherlands) supported these views.

2 May—*Rome Meetings*. Mr Kuznetsov (U.S.S.R.), replying to the suggestion that M. Saillant had not always followed the Federation policy, said that the same thing was true of Mr Deakin, as president, particularly in relation to the Marshall Plan. Soviet criticism of western leaders had been less severe than British and U.S. criticism of the Russians.

5 May—*Rome Meetings*. The committee adopted a resolution on the policy and administration of the federation, re-affirming that no one national centre should seek to dominate the affairs of the W.F.T.U. so as to exclude the point of view of any other national centre or tendency.

YUGOSLAVIA. 30 Apr.—Protest to Military Government (*see Trieste Free Territory*).

It was announced that the Slovene Communist leader and deputy, Franz Mojshkere, had been assassinated by a gang of political criminals.

2 May. Statement on British officer's death (*see Austria*).

6 May—*Trieste*. Note (*see Great Britain*).

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- |       |    |   |
|-------|----|---|
| May   | 15 | Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, India.                   |
| "     | 15 | Termination of British Mandate for Palestine.                           |
| "     | 15 | United Nations: I.T.U. World Aeronautical Radio Conference, Geneva.     |
| "     | 16 | Iraq: Withdrawal of British Advisory Military Mission.                  |
| "     | 17 | Conference of International Non-Governmental Organizations, Geneva.     |
| "     | 21 | Annual Congress of the Liberal International, Zürich.                   |
| "     | 26 | General Election in South Africa.                                       |
| "     | 30 | General Election in Czechoslovakia.                                     |
| June  | 1  | Arab and Jewish States in Palestine to be formed.                       |
| "     | 1  | I.C.A.O. Conference, Geneva.  |
| "     | 4  | International Socialist Conference, Vienna.                             |
| "     | 8  | International Chamber of Commerce, Paris.                               |
| "     | 10 | World Power Conference, Stockholm.                                      |
| "     | 17 | I.L.O. Conference, San Francisco.                                       |
| "     | 24 | United Nations: World Health Organization Inaugural Conference, Geneva. |
| July  | 12 | Economic and Social Council, Geneva.                                    |
| Aug.  | 1  | Completion of British withdrawal from Palestine.                        |
| "     | 22 | First Assembly of the World Council of Churches, Amsterdam.             |
| Sept. | 21 | U.N. General Assembly, Paris.   |
| "     | 27 | British Africa Conference, London.                                      |
| Oct.  | 1  | Arab and Jewish States to become independent.                           |